

**Amendments to the Claims:** This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

**Listing of Claims:**

1-14. (Cancelled).

15. (Currently Amended) A sealing collar for a cylinder-and-piston unit comprising a cylinder, a piston and a sealing collar, the sealing collar being configured for insertion into a groove extending in the cylinder-and-piston unit and comprising an outside sealing lip and an inside sealing lip, the outside and inside sealing lips each having a free end, the sealing collar further including a circumferential extension that extends in parallel to the sealing lips, is arranged radially between the outside sealing lip and the inside sealing lip and projects axially beyond the free ends of the outside and inside sealing lips, the circumferential extension being configured to contact a sidewall in the groove and maintain the free ends of the outside and inside sealing lips out of contact with the sidewall.

16. (New) A cylinder-and-piston unit comprising a cylinder, a piston and a sealing collar, the sealing collar being received in a groove that is recessed in an interior wall surface of the cylinder or in an exterior wall surface of the piston, the sealing collar comprising a first sealing lip and a second sealing lip, the first sealing lip being acted upon dynamically and making contact with the piston or the cylinder, respectively, and the second sealing lip thereof being acted upon statically while resting on a bottom of the groove, the first and second sealing lips each having a free end, the sealing collar further comprising a circumferential extension that extends between the first and second sealing lips, and projects from the first and second sealing lips in an axial direction beyond the free ends of the first and second sealing lips, the sealing collar having a rear surface opposite the free ends of the first and second sealing lips, wherein the sealing collar has a maximum radial width at the free end of the second sealing lip and a minimum radial width at the rear surface.

17. (New) The cylinder-and-piston unit as claimed in claim 16, wherein the axial width of the groove is larger than the axial width of the sealing collar.

18. (New) The cylinder-and-piston unit as claimed in claim 16, wherein the second sealing lip is configured such that it can be passed over by pressure fluid flow and hence

provides the effect of a valve.

19. (New) The cylinder-and-piston unit as claimed in claim 16, wherein the strength of the extension as a difference between its inside and outside diameters has at least the same rate as the strength of each of the sealing lips.

20. (New) The cylinder-and-piston unit as claimed in claim 16, wherein the end area at the free end of the extension is provided with radial apertures allowing pressure fluid to pass through in a radial direction.

21. (New) The cylinder-and-piston unit as claimed in claim 20, wherein the radial apertures include a plurality of small apertures at which the free end of the extension extends beyond the free ends of the first and second sealing lips, and a plurality of large apertures at which the free end of the extension does not extend beyond the free ends of the first and second sealing lips.

22. (New) The cylinder-and-piston unit as claimed in claim 20, wherein the apertures are open in an axial direction towards the free end of the extension.

23. (New) The cylinder-and-piston unit as claimed in claim 16, wherein the extension is integrally connected to the sealing collar and is made of the same material.

24. (New) A cylinder-and-piston unit comprising a cylinder, a piston and a sealing collar, the sealing collar being received in a groove that is recessed in an interior wall surface of the cylinder or in an exterior wall surface of the piston, the sealing collar comprising an outside sealing lip and an inside sealing lip, the outside and inside sealing lips each having a free end, the sealing collar further including a circumferential extension that extends generally parallel to the sealing lips, is arranged radially between the outside sealing lip and the inside sealing lip and has a free end that projects axially beyond the free ends of the outside and inside sealing lips, the circumferential extension engaging a sidewall in the groove and maintaining the free ends of the outside and inside sealing lips out of contact with the sidewall.

Amendment Dated December 14, 2006

Reply to Final Office Action of October 30, 2006

25. (New) The cylinder-and-piston unit of claim 24, wherein the free end of the circumferential extension is provided with radial apertures allowing pressure fluid to pass through in a radial direction.

26. (New) The cylinder-and-piston unit of claim 25, wherein the sealing collar includes a rear surface opposite the free ends of the outside and inside sealing lips, wherein the sealing collar has a maximum outside diameter at the free end of the outside sealing lip and a minimum outside diameter at the rear surface.